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NO DISSEM ABROAD

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5 June 1970

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Egyptian and Syrian Military Equipment
Holdings Cited in Joseph Alsop's
Washington Post Article of 5 June 1970

Alsop is attempting to dramatically force the point that the Arabs have greatly increased their military strength in the last three years. He has used figures, which he describes as before-the-war, that are much lower than those of the US intelligence community and current figures that are higher than those we hold. His prewar figures are, in fact, closer to those the US holds for the immediate post-war period. At the end of the 1967 war, for example, Egypt is believed to have had some 128 aircraft and about 500 tanks. Syria came out of the war with approximately 40 aircraft and some 500 tanks.

	<u>Prewar</u>		<u>Current</u>	
	<u>Alsop</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>Alsop</u>	<u>US</u>
Egypt:				
Fighter Aircraft	100	365	600	308
MIG-21s	(not given)	163	170	120
SU-7s	(not given)	55	150	78
Tanks	300	1,067	1,600	1,500
Artillery	400	772	1,600	657
Syria:				
Fighter Aircraft	55	92	260	158
Tanks	350	570	1,000	568
Artillery	200	615	1,000	555
USSR:				
Fighter Aircraft	0	0	100	40-50

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